



Assassination Records Review Board
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July 23, 1998

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Harold:

Thank you for your letter of July 14, which arrived only yesterday.

We are acquainted with earlier governmental activities related to the taking of the rifle and other items. The Department of Justice was able to take those actions pursuant a specific statute that authorized the taking, but which is no longer in effect. There is no question that the U.S. government has the ultimate power to take the Zapruder film; the only debatable question is whether the JFK Act itself accomplished that task. We have made our arguments that the JFK Act not only permitted a taking, but essentially obligated that the film be kept by the government. To the extent that we prevail on such an argument, the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution entitles the Zapruder family to "just compensation" for whatever property interest it had in the film.

A separate letter was sent to you today announcing the sale of our medical deposition transcripts and exhibits. They will be available for purchase after July 31. I am enclosing another copy of the order form. The exhibits, the most expensive part of the offering, primarily consist of records that have long been in the public domain but that were important for our use during the depositions. There is some new material in the exhibits.

I should also let you know that I am leaving the Review Board. I have accepted a position at the U.S. Institute of Peace, where I will work on issues related to religious freedom. It is a far cry from the JFK assassination. I fully expect that the Review Board will complete the declassification process during the next two months.

With best wishes to you and Lillian,

T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

Enclosure

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